

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A sealed package for pourable food products, having at least one removable portion, and a closable opening device in turn comprising a frame defining a pour opening and fixed to said package about said removable portion, a cap fitted to said frame to close said pour opening and movable to free the pour opening, and pull-off opening means housed in said frame and comprising a rigid plate integral with said removable portion and extractable from the frame, by pulling action, together with at least part of said removable portion; ~~characterized by also~~ further comprising a pull-tab of sheet material interposed between said removable portion and said plate and attached to both.

2. (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said pull-tab comprises a main portion attached to said removable portion; and an end portion folded over said main portion and attached to said plate.

3. (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said plate is connected integrally to said frame by breakable connecting means defining a parting direction in which said plate is parted from the frame, and which is parallel to an opening direction of said pull-tab.

4. (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in claim 3 wherein said plate comprises a base portion attached to said pull-tab; and a grip portion projecting from said base portion and accessible through said frame when said cap is removed from said pour opening.

5. (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said breakable connecting means comprise two parallel breakable strips of material connecting opposite sides of said base portion of said plate to mutually facing portions of said frame.

6. (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said grip portion is substantially ring-shaped, projects from one end of said base portion, and is bent over the base portion.

7. (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in claim 6, wherein said removable portion comprises a patch of thermoplastic material applied to the inside of said package to close a through hole in the package.

8. (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said plate is connected integrally to said frame by breakable connecting means defining a parting direction in which said plate is parted from the frame, and which is parallel to an opening direction of said pull-tab.

9. (Currently Amended) A package as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~8, wherein said plate comprises a base portion attached to said pull-tab; and a grip portion projecting from said base portion and accessible through said frame when said cap is removed from said pour opening.

10. (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said breakable connecting means comprise two parallel breakable strips of material connecting opposite sides of said base portion of said plate to mutually facing portions of said frame.

11. (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said grip portion is substantially ring-shaped, projects from one end of said base portion, and is bent over the base portion.

12. (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said grip portion is substantially ring-shaped, projects from one end of said base portion, and is bent over the base portion.

13. (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in claim 1, wherein said removable portion comprises a patch of thermoplastic material applied to the inside of said package to close a through hole in the package.

14. (New) A sealed package for pourable food products, having at least one removable portion, and a closable opening device, the closable opening device

comprising a frame defining a pour opening and being fixed to the package about the removable portion, a cap fitted to the frame to close the pour opening and movable to free the pour opening, and pull-off opening means housed in the frame and comprising a rigid plate attached to the removable portion and extractable from the frame, by pulling action, together with at least part of the removable portion, and a pull-tab of sheet material interposed between the removable portion and the plate, the pull-tab being attached to both the removable portion and the plate.

15. (New) A package as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the pull-tab comprises a main portion attached to the removable portion; and an end portion folded over the main portion and attached to the plate.

16. (New) A package as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the pull-tab is configured to remain attached to the plate and the removable portion when the plate is extracted from the frame.

17. (New) A package as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the plate is connected to the removable portion via the pull-tab.